

## Senate Resolution 695

By: Senators Halpern of the 39th, Echols of the 49th, Orrock of the 36th, Walker III of the 20th, Parent of the 44th and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Georgia Aquarium on its 20th Anniversary; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Georgia Aquarium opened in 2005 as a philanthropic gift to the City of Atlanta,  
3 made possible through the generosity and vision of the late Bernie Marcus, and has since  
4 become one of Georgia's most beloved cultural institutions, welcoming millions of guests  
5 and inspiring curiosity, stewardship, and a lasting appreciation for the ocean; and

6 WHEREAS, Georgia Aquarium stands as one of the state of Georgia's most significant  
7 tourist attractions, drawing visitors from around the nation and the world, and serving as a  
8 catalyst for economic development, revitalization, and sustained growth in downtown  
9 Atlanta; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia Aquarium's transformative experiences have reimagined what an  
11 aquarium can be, as awe-inspiring habitats and immersive galleries are paired with  
12 science-based storytelling so families, students, and visitors of all ages connect deeply with  
13 aquatic life and leave with a renewed sense of wonder; and

14 WHEREAS, its profound community impact reaches downtown Atlanta and classrooms  
15 across the state, as accessible programs and field experiences strengthen tourism, support

16 local businesses, and expand hands-on STEM learning opportunities for Georgia's students;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, as an animal well-being champion, the aquarium advances best practices  
19 through collaborative research and responds to urgent rescues, demonstrating expertise that  
20 saves animals and informs conservation worldwide; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia Aquarium strives to make every experience welcoming and accessible  
22 and is designated as a Certified Autism Center and recognized as KultureCity's Sensory  
23 Inclusive Venue of the Year; and

24 WHEREAS, the aquarium also runs the Veterans Immersion Program-therapeutic dives for  
25 wounded and recovering veterans-now extended to children from Children's Healthcare of  
26 Atlanta and patients from Shepherd Center, creating restorative, unforgettable connections  
27 with marine life; and

28 WHEREAS, as research and conservation experts, the aquarium and its partners conduct and  
29 apply cutting-edge science to advance knowledge of threatened species, restore critical  
30 habitats, and turn evidence into action for healthier oceans and stronger ecosystems.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
32 congratulate the Georgia Aquarium on the occasion of its 20th anniversary and commend its  
33 enduring leadership in education, animal care, inclusion, and conservation.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
35 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the Georgia  
36 Aquarium.